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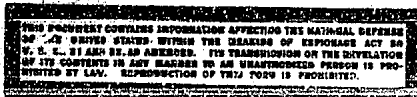
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CRITICISM OF COAL-MINE-EQUIPMENT  
MAINTENANCE IN BULGARIA

The machinery and equipment in the "Georgi Dimitrov" Mine are not utilized or maintained properly. The mechanics do not take regular measures to see that they are in good working order, do not clean them, and often overload them. The fitters, who are responsible for the good condition of the machines, do not make regular preliminary repairs and inspections.

At the "Beli bryag" Pit there are frequent breakdowns in the conveyers because the worker responsible for them, Yordan Tonev, does not take enough interest in the machines. On 19 December 1951, the bad condition of the track in the pit caused two breakdowns in trolley No. 1. The hauling of coal was stopped for a couple of hours. The responsible worker, Stanimir Zarev, had not taken the proper measures to keep the track in good working condition. The manager of the pit, Engineer Karlukovski, does not check up on the work of the fitters regularly.

In many places, since the drilling machines are not kept in good condition, the miners have to use hand-operated drills. At the "Marshal Tolbukhin" Pit new drilling machines are kept in reserve in the underground warehouses of the central station, but they have not been put in service and are gathering rust.

At the "Dimitur Blagoev" Pit the greatest obstacle to plan fulfillment is the frequent breakdown of the plate conveyor. In spite of the agreement that exists between the mine and the "Stalin" Machine-Building Plant whereby the weak parts of the plate conveyor are to be replaced with new ones, Chief Engineer Tomchev does not observe the terms of the contract and keeps putting off the overhauling of the machine.

The assembly of the conveyers is sometimes done improperly or hurriedly, and they are often overloaded. The conveyers are seldom cleaned, and this causes breakdowns and losses. The conveyor chains are old and worn out. The excavating machines are used very sparingly. All these irregularities are known to Engineer Dakov and to mechanic Abadshiev, who are attached to the mine administration, but they have done almost nothing to stop them.

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The "Vuzliska" (Coal) State Mining Combine has issued a special order on the maintenance of machines, but that order is not being complied with. Mechanics and fitters are often transferred from one machine to another and from one place to another without the knowledge of the chief engineer.

Mechanics and fitters at many of the pits have not signed a statement assuming personal responsibility for the proper operation and efficient and safe maintenance of the machines and equipment which have been entrusted to their care. The pledges signed at the "Dimitur Blagov," "Marshal Tolbukhin," and "Tolstova Krusha" pits exist only on paper and are not fulfilled.

The administration, the pit managers, and the workers in charge of the machines at the "Georgi Dimitrov" Mine have the immediate task of improving the maintenance and use of the machinery. This will assure fulfillment of the production plan.

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